

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTER FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

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KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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Certification of State Register Listing

The Register of Historic Kansas Places includes all Kansas properties nominated to the National Register as well as lower threshold properties which are listed on the state register only.

Property Name: St. Aloysius Church (STATE REGISTER)

Address: A 2 acre tract standing on the NE4, NE4, NE4, NW4, S.22, T.29S, R.22E in
Greenbush, Grant Township, Girard vicinity

County: CRAWFORD COUNTY

Legal: A 2 acre tract standing on the NE4, NE4, NE4, NW4, S.22, T.29S, R.22E in
Greenbush, Grant Township, Girard vicinity

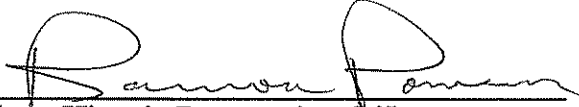
Owner: Eugene J. Gerber
Bishop of Wichita
Catholic Diocese of Wichita
424 North Broadway
Wichita, Kansas 67202

National Register eligible _____

State Register eligible XX

This property was approved by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for the Register of Historic Kansas Places on February 26, 1994.

I hereby certify that this property is listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places.


State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

3-2-94

*** ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH, GREENBUSH, CRAWFORD COUNTY (STATE REGISTER)**

St. Aloysius Church was closed by its owner, the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, in 1993. The diocese has generally supported the efforts of the displaced congregation to save, preserve, and find a new use for the building. The movement to save the physical structure of the church has been led by Judy Jacquinet, who is the director of the Crawford County ASCE Offices and a member of the displaced congregation. There is much community support for the nomination, as evidenced by the various clippings and letters that are in your packet. Of particular interest please find a policy statement from the diocese on the closing of churches.

The St. Aloysius Church (c. 1881) is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its historical association with the Greenbush community, an agriculturally based settlement established by French Catholics. The one-story, limestone church served the parish from 1881 until 1907, when a new church was constructed some 100 yards to the west. The building then served the community as a meeting hall and school until 1984, when it was renovated to serve the community's religious needs. A 1982 fire destroyed the 1907 church. Modifications to interior and the addition of a tower, both completing during the 1982 renovation, detract from the building's architectural integrity, creating a situation where staff recommends nomination to the Register of Historic Kansas Places only.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Aloysius Catholic Church & adjoining cemetery (10 acres)
other names/site number (St. Francis Mission, Greenbush)
(Hickory Creek Church)

2. Location

street & number 10 acres in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sect. 22, Twp. 29S, Rg. 22E ☐ not for publication
city, town Girard (Greenbush) ☒ vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Crawford code CR zip code 66743
Parcel ID: 145-2200-00-00-003.00-0-01

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure:

church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure

church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

vernacular limestone church

with Gothic detailing

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Limestone/ plaster interior

roof wood truss/ composition shingles

other glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The St. Aloysius Catholic Church (c. 1881) is located on the East 1/4 of the N.E. 1/4 of the N.W. 1/4 of Section 22, Township 29, Range 22 in Grant Township, Crawford County, Kansas, in the unincorporated town of Greenbush. The grounds of the Church lie midway between Girard (to the East) and St. Paul (to the West) on Highway 57. It is at the center of an agricultural community settled in the mid 1800's by German, French and Irish immigrants drawn by the availability of land newly acquired from the Indian nations in the area for farming and mining opportunities.

The present church is the second church structure built on this property and is a gable front, one story, native limestone structure roofed with composition shingles over timber trusses and wood deck. The bell tower / vestibule were added to the North (front) of the structure in 1984. The front of the church faces North and is 30 feet wide. The length of the original structure is 60 feet long with the 9 foot by 13 foot bell tower/ vestibule attached to the north end.

Stone for this church was quarried locally from a ledge of stone strata at nearby Hickory Creek. Random ashlar block pattern for the stone coursing was used throughout the structure with red brick soldier coursing from the springline to the apex of Gothic arches over all window and door openings. A dressed limestone keystone was placed at the apex of each arch. The walls were laid with a randomly coursed interior wythe of stone which was then faced on the exterior with a more coursed, finished stonework. The interior was covered with plaster work directly onto the stone.

The front (north) facade of the original structure is approximately 28 feet high at the peak of the gabled roof, 13 feet high at the eaves. The original doorway was at the center of this facade and was flanked by a Gothic style window on each side. A trio of Gothic style windows formed a triangle above the central doorway, following the pitch of the roof gable. The central doors were replaced during the 1984 renovation.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The East and West (side) facades of the church each have five Gothic arched windowss with the red brick detailing described above. A lean-to addition to the East side was removed during the 1984 renovation. One of the original windows on the East facade had been replaced with a doorway during the construction of the lean-to in the 1940's and the door was replaced in 1984. The gabled South (rear) facade is solid except for a single doorway which was closed during the 1984 renovation.

The bell tower/ vestibule addition is a five sided structure enclosing a vestibule and small vestment closet. The pair of doors into the vestibule are off-axis of the original pair of entrance doors. The exterior material of the bell tower is stone veneer matching the original stonework up to 10 feet above the floor; stucco up to 16 feet above the floor with a hipped, shingled roof topped by a six sided belfry and shingled tower roof up to 42 feet above the floor which is in turn topped by an 8 foot metal cross.

The interior of the Church is based on a simple central aisle flanked by ten rows of pews on each side. A platform constructed in 1984 crosses the South end of the floor plan. The ceiling is sloped at the East and West thirds and is flat at the central third. The interior is lit by the Gothic arched windows; five on the West, four on the East and two on the North wall. All interior wall surfaces were insulated and sheetrocked during the 1984 renovation. The structure; originally heated by potbellied stove, is conditioned by forced air mechanical units housed in the upper level of the bell tower/ vestibule. The concrete floor is carpeted and the original windows were replaced with aluminum framed Gothic arched windows. A partial upper level installed during the 1940's for additional classroom space was also removed in 1984.

This stucture sits at the Northeast corner of the church property. The ruins of a larger church structure destroyed by fire in 1982 sit at the Northwest corner with a gravel parking area between the two. A rectory sits at the South end of the parking area and the church cemetary sits South of the rectory.

This structure is the second of three church structures to be built on this property. The first was constructed of wood in 1871 but was destroyed by storm in 1877. This second church was completed in 1881 by the parishioners at a cost of \$700 and was known as the Hickory Church until 1890 as it was located close to the Hickory Creek which was named so for the groves of hickory trees lining its banks. The third, larger church was completed in 1907 and was built with stone from the same quarry as the 1881 church. The second church was used between 1907 and 1984 as a parochial school and parish hall. When the 1907 church burned down in 1982 after a lightning strike, the 1881 church was renovated to serve again as the St. Aloysious Church. Other than the bell tower/ vestibule and replaced doors and windows, this building has maintained its appearance and usage faithfully for 150 years. The structure is architecturally significant as it serves as a beautiful example of the vernacular limestone architecture with appropriate Gothic detailing so common for buildings of importance during the late 1800's in Kansas. It also serves as a tangible reminder of the earliest recorded history of the settlers in the Southeast Kansas region; of their faith in their Church and in themselves.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture
social history

Period of Significance

1869-present

Significant Dates

1869

1881

1902

1984

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Fr. Phillip Colleton

Architect/Builder

construction under direction of Fr.

Van der Hagen; Owen McMahan and

father builders. Xavier Lafouge, stone mason

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Greenbush, Kansas (constructed 1881) is being nominated to the State/National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the growth and development of the German, French and Irish Catholic communities in the region and for its architectural significance as a vernacular limestone church with Gothic detailing. The St. Aloysius Catholic Church maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity.

The St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Greenbush, unincorporated) and adjoining cemetery (c. 1869-1881, 1986) occupying approximately 10 acres of land, is located NW1/4 of Sect. 22 Twp. 29S Rg. 22E, on highway #57, 8 Miles W. of the highway intersection in Girard, Kansas, in Grant Township, Crawford County, Kansas (population 267). Girard, Kansas population: 2794.

The church stands on the South side of Highway #57, Greenbush, Kansas, an agricultural community that was settled primarily by the French, Irish & Germans in the 1860's. Located on the Historic "Mission Road". The stretch of road from the junction of Summit Street and St. John Street in Girard going west to St. Paul where the Osage Indian Mission was located. (Genealogy Record of: Girard Public Library)

The fervent promise of Jesuit Missionary, Father Philip Colleton, while he waited out a ferocious Kansas storm in 1869, resulted in the establishment of St. Aloysius mission.

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Towards the close of an unseasonably warm day late in the spring of 1869, A Jesuit missionary priest, Father Phillip Colleton, S.J., was on his way westward from the village of Crawfordville, towards his home at Osage Mission. Settlers were few and far between in southeast Kansas in this period. There were no wigwams along his course as he was accustomed to seeing in the Osage country, for this was the "Neutral Strip" that had wisely been set aside by the treaty efforts of a paternal government for the preservation of peace between two dominant contending tribes. Father Colleton was giving little heed to the ominous cloud that was appearing in the south west. He was oblivious of pending danger until a lightning flash awakened him to his peril. He must face the storm on the open prairie. He took refuge near Hickory Creek. A cluster of bushes attracted his attention on the spot to be made famous because of that storm and which in these later days is commonly called Greenbush. There he dismounted and sought to make an improvised shelter under his saddle. The missionary turned his thoughts to God and vowed that if his life be spared he would erect a chapel in honor of the Mother of God to mark the spot of his tribulation. His life was spared and he began preparation for carrying out his vow.

The titles to the lands of Crawford county which comprised part of the Cherokee Neutral Strip remained vested in the Indians after the coming of statehood and continued that way until October 1, 1867 when, under the treaty of August 10, 1866, it was sold by the government to James F. Joy, Ft. Scott & Gulf Railroad. The sale was confirmed by a supplementary treaty proclaimed June 10, 1868, but because of litigation started by the settlers, the patent was not given to Mr. Joy until November 2, 1870.

Father Colleton went to Kansas City to call upon a Mr. O'Brien who was head of the land department of the Joy railroad company. Mr. O'Brien agreed to give Father Colleton the NW1/4 of Section 22, township 29, range 22. Father Colleton had visions of a future as well as a desire to fulfill his vow. He reasoned that in a few short years settlers would be flocking to that locality to occupy the fertile land and and that his church would serve as a magnet to draw Catholic homeseekers to establish homes in its vicinity and proceeded with the erection of the church.

This first church was a small frame building, ample in size at first to accommodate the needs of the parish until the population of the locality began to grow. This first church was the the first edifice dedicated to Christ in Crawford County, Kansas, in which Mass was offered for the first time in other than an immigrant's cabin, and was the result of the vow of a missionary priest. The church was completed before March, 1871. It was a small building situated a short distance southeast of the stone church dedicated in 1907.

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The elements of nature appear to plague the Greenbush site, for the church that was inspired by a storm was destroyed by a storm in 1877. Soon after the destruction of the first church the people of the parish began the erection of the second church at Greenbush. One much larger and more substantial than the first church. There is a fine ledge of sandstone cropping out along Hickory Creek, not far from the Church. The members of the parish began spending their spare time quarrying stone from this ledge and hauling it to the site of the church. The numbers of workers was not large, but those were the times when the misfortunes and hardships of the frontier tightened the bonds of friendship between the settlers and their God. Mindful of these facts these plain country folks united their efforts to provide for themselves and their posterity, this house of God. Although five years of toil was required to accomplish their purpose, they pushed on with courage and faith until the reward was theirs. Owen McMahan and his father were the mechanics in charge of the construction work. Almost all the labor was performed gratis by the members of the parish, early settlers of Greenbush. Among those early settlers were Justin Jacquinot and Xavier Lafouge. Mr. Lafouge, a stonemason from France, helped tie in place the stones that were used to build the church. Xavier LaFouge came to Kansas at the close of the Civil War and built many stone buildings, including his own home. It is still standing, just east of Greenbush. (Genealogy records of Helen Dreitzler) The actual cash outlay in completing the building ready for use was \$700. It was completed in 1881, about a year before the arrival of Father Verdan, its first resident pastor.

The original cemetery located directly South of the church was named St. Francis because the church was a mission from St. Francis church at St. Paul until the present name of St. Aloysius. Before 1890 the Greenbush church was known as the Hickory Creek Church and Hickory cemetery. The names on the gravestones in the cemetery south of the church proudly proclaim the heritage of the French, Irish and German people who settled this part of Crawford County. From the genealogy records of William Cuthbertson on file in the Girard Public Library, the earliest burial found was in 1872. The earliest birth date found was 1784 and is the earliest date found on a stone in Crawford County.

Settlements were known mostly by the name of some near-by stream or hill. The first church at Greenbush was therefore called "Hickory Church" because of its nearness to Hickory creek. In 1871, there was a store about half of a mile east of the church. The name Greenbush was given to the post office established on June 22, 1874. The post office was discontinued in 1901 because of a rural mail delivery route from Girard. The name "Hickory Church" was retained until 1890, when it was changed to Greenbush. At times there have been a school, creamery and a blacksmith shop at Greenbush, but these are now only memories. The second church completed in 1881 still stands and currently is in use as the Catholic church.

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The magnetic influence visioned by Father Colleton had attracted so many Catholic families to this locality that this second church was becoming far too small. About the year of 1900 plans began to formulate for the erection of a still larger edifice, a building to be larger than any other church then in Crawford County. The men of Greenbush parish began again to spend their spare time in quarrying stone from the ledge on Hickory Creek and hauling them to the church yard. The foundation was ready for the laying of the corner stone on September 18, 1902. The members of the Greenbush parish were and are a thrifty and industrious class of people who take pride in their homes and in their church. The dedication took place on July 12, 1907. The second church was converted into a community building used for church gatherings and socials.

Somehow the forces of nature continued to plague the Greenbush Churches. On August 11, 1982, the forces of nature again struck the St. Aloysius Church. The third church stood for 75 years as a landmark in Crawford County before it was destroyed in 1982 when struck by lightning resulting in a fire that destroyed the church. Storms continue to shape the history of the Church. Founded in response to a storm, its first and its third church have been destroyed by storms. The second church still stands.

But Greenbush parishioners have again been true to Father Colleton's promise. They renovated the 1881 church which had been in use as the parish hall over the years. The vestibule and the new altar in the refurbished second church has been built from stone salvaged from the third. Also included in the new altar built from salvaged stone is the cornerstone laid in 1902 from the third church.

The steeple and vestibule that were added to the front of the building are the only major changes to the outside completed in 1985. New windows, pews, and carpeting were added to the inside. Behind the altar, in the south end, plaster was cut out to reveal the original sandstone from the inside of the church where the crucifix and statues are displayed.

Because of the historical value of the second church, the members of parish and the Bishop decided to remodel rather than rebuild. Parishioners felt it was fitting to keep in touch with their history rather than to construct a new building. The historical 1881 church was renovated into a place of worship. Thus the SECOND church became the FOURTH for Greenbush parishioners of St. Aloysius when on March 9, 1986 it was rededicated by Bishop Eugene Gerber. It is a fitting tribute to the history of the people of Greenbush.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

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Pioneer Catholics had no lack of fervor for Christ. They brought with them that civilizing spirit of Christianity that help to transform a wilderness into a great commonwealth. We may rightfully point with pride to the practical piety of those early settlers, their tolerant spirit of citizenship, and the peaceful pursuits practiced by those early Catholics, evidences of which still prevail among their descendants residing in this area.

The pioneers of Greenbush, Kansas and the surrounding prairie, lived in a different world than the one we take so much for granted. If we look back, we will see that the days were filled with hardships and privations that we would not care to experience. Yet we should have some awareness of those days and of the sacrifices made by Greenbush's pioneers. With that thought in mind, The above narrative is presented.

The decline and departure from the rural community of Greenbush, due to the rural farming economy, attributed to the decline in attendance at the church resulting in the closing of the St. Aloysius Parish. As all things have a beginning so they must end but with the determination of the people, not unlike their history, St. Aloysius will have a new beginning. It is our hope to maintain the church as a religious museum, chapel, oratory or shrine which means a church or other sacred place which, with the approval of the local Ordinary, is by reason of special devotion frequented by the faithful as pilgrims.

GREENBUSH, KANSAS

Settlement

The ten acres of church property constituting Greenbush, Kansas, are in Grant Township, Crawford County, the NW 1/4 of Sec. 22, Twp. 29S, R. 22E. Its parish was established as Hickory Creek in 1868 by Rev. Philip Colleton of Osage Mission to serve immigrant French farmers of the area.¹ Greenbush was never a town. St. Aloysius Catholic Church, with its related buildings, cemetery, and property site, is the focal core of Greenbush, located on the south side of KS Highway 57, eight miles west of that highway's intersection with KS Highway 7 in Girard, Kansas.

Name

Like other settlements known by the name of a nearby geographical landmark, the first station at Greenbush was called Hickory Creek Church because of its proximity to a creek which ran through a hickory grove. This name was retained until 1890, when, at the request of the Right Rev. Louis M. Fink, O.S.B., Bishop of Leavenworth (in which diocese the parish was then located), the parish priest, Father Francis Mary Verdan (1853-1932), changed the name to that of the Greenbush post office, which had been moved the previous November to the parish house.²

Post Office

On June 22, 1874, the Greenbush post office was established in the home of Postmaster Gilbert Bozarth (1815-1887), three to four miles southeast of the church.³ When Barbara Mary Davied (1864-1956) was appointed postmaster on November 27, 1889, the post office was moved to the Hickory Creek Church parish house, where she served as housekeeper.⁴ Until its discontinuation on May 15, 1901⁵ (when rural free delivery, route 2, was established from Girard), the post office was maintained near the church.

Churches

The Hickory Creek Church, a small frame structure, was built in 1871 by Rev. Philip Colleton, who exacted a promise that 160 acres for a church site be deeded to the St. Francis Institution,

¹Moeder, p. 57; Fitzgerald, p. 259.

²Graves, Legend of Greenbush, p. 13.

³Ibid.; Baughman, p. 53.

⁴Graves, Legend of Greenbush, p. 14.

⁵Ibid.; Baughman, p. 53.

Osage Mission, Leavenworth Catholic Diocese, from the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad. (Transactions were not formalized until a deed for forty acres was filed eight years later on October 8, 1879.⁶) The church was enlarged in 1873.⁷ No physical evidence of this church is extant. Destroyed in an 1877 storm, its remnants were sold to a farmer, Robert MaManus (1858-1891), who used them in buildings on his nearby farm.⁸ A second church, completed in 1881, still stands, used as a parish hall from 1907 until 1983 and once more as a church from 1983 to 1993, when the parish was discontinued. The cornerstone for the third church, St. Aloysius Catholic Church,⁹ was laid on Sept. 14, 1902.¹⁰ The church was completed and formally dedicated five years later on July 9, 1907.¹¹ On August 12, 1982, just before renovation for its eightieth anniversary was completed, the church was destroyed by a fire resulting from lightning striking the steeple.¹² Its ruins remain. Renovation of the 1881 church was completed in 1985, a steeple and vestibule being added to the original structure. Inside, new windows, pews, and carpeting were installed. An altar, built from stone salvaged from the third church, incorporated the 1902 cornerstone. The remodeled church was rededicated on March 9, 1986, by Bishop Eugene Gerber.¹³

Rev. Philip Colleton, S. J.

The Rev. Philip Colleton, S. J. (1831-1876), a missionary Roman Catholic priest from Osage Mission (known since April 11, 1895, as St. Paul), had a reputation as a builder of churches. A record in the archives of St. Louis University confirms he visited homes on Hickory Creek as early as 1868.¹⁴ A letter of February 11, 1871, reports that he had built nine churches in Kansas during

⁶Ibid., p. 12.

⁷Ibid., p. 4.

⁸Ibid., p. 6.

⁹Named in honor of Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591), patron saint of the young. Cf. Bangert, pp. 332-333.

¹⁰Graves, Annals of St. Paul, p. 153.

¹¹Ibid., p. 238.

¹²Torchia, "Fire Levels Historic Church," pp. 1, 10.

¹³"Second Church Becomes Fourth," Catholic Advance, Mar. 9, 1986.

¹⁴Graves, Legend of Greenbush, p. 17.

the previous year,¹⁵ the church at Hickory Creek being completed by this date.¹⁶ Born in Ireland, Father Colleton came to America as a youth, entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) at the age of twenty-three in July 1854, and was ordained a priest in 1863. In January 1868 he was assigned to the Osage Mission to serve as a consulter of the mission school and "to engage extensively in the missionary field."¹⁷

Folklore

The post-Civil War period, as reflected in biographies and fiction of the era, was prone to establish mythic beginnings for prominent figures and places. This tradition was continued in Crawford County, supported in part by the Roman Catholic tradition of making significant events memorable through allegories of miracles. Although the name of Greenbush was not originally given to Hickory Church, the folkloric founding of the church recounts that in 1869 Father Colleton, caught in a dangerously severe hail storm, found shelter in a green bush growing beside the Osage Mission Road. In his prayers, Father Colleton pledged to build a church on the spot if his life were spared, honoring St. Mary and named after the humble shelter which preserved him from harm.¹⁸

The Cemetery

The cemetery, originally called St. Francis Cemetery, was established about 1883. With the building of the third church, it became known as the St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery. The oldest settler buried there is Patrick Hallisy, born in September 1784. Another stone, inscribed in French, marks the resting place of Mariane Lafouge (1800-1875), the mother of Xavier Lafouge, builder of the 1881 stone church at Greenbush. Xavier Lafouge (1823-1909), who came to Kansas from France at the close of the Civil War, was responsible for the building of many of the area's stone structures, including his own home, which still stands just east of Greenbush. The Lafouge home was the residence of Father Francis Mary Verdan (1853-1932), the parish's first resident pastor, for two years while a stone parish house was being constructed. Born in St. John de Tholme, Haute, Savoie, France, on 27 November

¹⁵Fitzgerald, p. 193. This letter is printed in Graves, Legend of Greenbush, pp. 72-75.

¹⁶Graves, Legend of Greenbush, p. 3.

¹⁷Ibid., pp. 16-17.

¹⁸Ibid., pp. 2-3.

1853, Father Verdan is buried in the St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery.¹⁹

Schools

Helen Daxon, later Mrs. John Marnell (1853-1932), was the first teacher on record in the Hickory Creek Church parish school.²⁰ After the church with its attached school was destroyed by a storm in 1877 and with the legislated establishment of district schools, the parish school was discontinued and a public school district, No. 30, was established. On August 27, 1898, Clemence Lallemand sold one and one-eighth acres north and east of the church to the district, on which a one-room frame schoolhouse was built.²¹ Since most families in the new district were Catholic, teachers were employed to offer classes in religion after regular school hours. The Sister Adorers of the Blood of Christ of Wichita, a teaching order which began service in Kansas in 1893, served in the catechetical center at Greenbush from 1941 to 1961. With the arrival of the nuns, first through third grade classes were held in the parish hall loft (the 1881 church) and fourth through eighth grade classes were held in the one-room schoolhouse until 1958. Land was purchased east of the church for a larger school on May 28, 1958. With the consolidation of school districts in the state, District 30 became District 248. The Greenbush school was closed in 1975 and the building became the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center in 1976, serving 51 schools districts, 4,000 teachers and administrators, and 50,000 students in nineteen counties of Southeast Kansas. Over 150 of the 304 Kansas school districts contract services from the ESC, which employs 80 people at the Greenbush site and 310 educators and staff at all sites.

Native American Ownership

Although Crawford County was organized on April 15, 1867, it remained a portion of the 800,000-acre Cherokee Neutral Lands until 1868; earlier (from 1825 to 1835) it was part of the Osage Neutral Lands. As Indian property, the Neutral Lands formed a buffer zone between the Osage Reservation of the present Neosho County and the white settlers of Missouri, as well as between the inhabitants of Indian Territory and Kansas settlers in Bourbon County. On October 7, 1861, the Cherokee Indians sold the Neutral Lands

¹⁹William Cuthbertson, s.v. "Greenbush Catholic Cemetery (St. Francis or St. Aloysius or Hickory)," pp. [1-2]; Kenneth Simons; Helen Schweitzer Dreitzler; Judy Jacquinet.

²⁰Ibid., p. 14. She was succeeded by her brother-in-law, Thomas Marnell.

²¹Warranty deed, 1898 Deed Record Book, Crawford County Kansas, p. 189; Plat Book of Crawford County, Kansas, p. 17.

to the Confederacy (a sale repudiated in February 1863). Although the Cherokees ceded the land by treaty to the federal government on July 19, 1866, a supplemental treaty relinquishing the property was not signed until April 27, 1868.²² During the period of Indian ownership, white settlement on the Neutral Lands was prohibited, an exception being religious missions approved by the federal government.

The Land-League

Rather than opening up the Neutral Lands under the Homestead Act, the government offered them for sale. On August 30, 1866, U.S. Secretary of the Interior James Harlan sold the Neutral Lands to the American Emigrant Company, which in turn sold them on October 19, 1867, to James F. Joy, a Michigan railroad magnate. His interests were sold to the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad Company on March 10, 1869.²³ Upon the initial sale of the Neutral Lands, concerned settlers in Crawford and Cherokee Counties protested by forming township organizations.²⁴ A. P. Mosteller (1820-1883) represented Grant Township at the first joint meeting of these organizations at Crawfordville in Crawford County on October 1, 1867.²⁵ A series of similar meetings led to the formation of a bi-county organization known variously as the "Anti-Joy League," the "Land League," or the "Neutral Home Protection Corps," but generally referred to as the "League."²⁶ A Grant Township organization, the Irish Land League, centered around Hickory Creek Church, meeting in a house on the north side of the road at Greenbush.²⁷ Eventually those settlers who could prove they had built a cabin and raised a crop prior to August 1866 were granted patents, all others having to purchase acreage from the railroad company.

Agriculture

In May 1869, the amount of cultivated land in southern Kansas almost doubled, and, by the spring of 1870, virtually every quarter section had a farm home on it. The population of Grant Town-

²²Brown, pp. 6-9.

²³Warranty deed, Joy to the MR, FS & G RR Co., recorded in Book A of Deeds, p. 116, Girard, Crawford County, Kansas.

²⁴Brown, pp. 16-17.

²⁵Fort Scot Weekly Monitor, Sept. 25, 1867; Oct. 2, 1867.

²⁶Brown, p. 17.

²⁷Girard Press, Dec. 23, 1880, p. 2.

ship jumped from 421 inhabitants in 1870 to 1,034 by 1880.²⁸ By 1920 the population had again doubled. The Greenbush area remained rural with agriculture as the prime source of income, the dominant immigrant language stock being French and that of the rest of the township Irish.²⁹ The 1990 U.S. Census enumerates 3,833 inhabitants of the township, 1,221 of whom live on farms. Of the township's \$416.1 million personal income, however, only \$4.8 million are now farm earnings.

²⁸Tenth United States Census, 1880, Vol. I, p. 176.

²⁹Carman, pp. 110-111.

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William C. Cuthbertson. The Genesis of Girard

St. Aloysius, Greenbush. The Catholic Diocese of Wichita Commemorates Its First 100 Years, Catholic Diocese of Wichita Centennial (1887-1987) Editors: Mary K. Pelzer & Father Michael Pelzer.

☒ See continuation sheet**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property approximately 10 acres**UTM References**

A 1 5 3 2 4 19 8 4 1 5 3 5 68
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22, Twp. 29S, Rg. 22E in Grant township, Crawford County (Greenbush) near Girard, Kansas on a tract measuring 330 feet wide and 1287 feet long. The church is located on the NE corner of the tract with the cemetery directly south of the church (Parcel ID 145-22-0-00-00-003.00-0-01)

☐ See continuation sheet**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is located on a 10 acre tract that is historically associated with it. The boundary for the nominated property includes a tract measuring 330 feet wide (East-W) by 1287 feet long which contains the church and cemetery. The remaining acreage is devoted to the ruins of the 1907 church, rectory and some yard area.

☐ See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Judy A. Jacquinet

organization _____

street & number 131 $\frac{1}{2}$ S. Summit

city or town Girard.

9-7-93

date September 7, 1993

telephone 316-724-4415/6227

state Kansas zip code 66743

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

The Pittsburg Sun

May 9, 1971
August 12, 1982
August 16, 1982

The Kansas City Times

August 15, 1982

The Wichita Eagle-Beacon

August 12, 1982

The Catholic Advance Register

March 9, 1986
August 19, 1992

The Girard Press

March 10, 1881: Vol 16. #8,	page 2	(Grant Township)
May 19, 1881: Vol 16. #18,	page 3	(map)
	page 4	(population)
	page 4	(churches)
January 20, 1881, Vol.16 #1,	Page 2	(Grant Township)
August 5, 1880, Vol. 15 #29,	Page 2	(Grant Township)
October 17, 1880, Vol. 15 #38,	Page 3	(St. Francis)
December 23, 1880, Vol 16 #49,	Page 2	(Grant Township)
August 9, 1877, Vol. 12 #28,	Page 3	(post office)
April 2, 1986		
August 25, 1993		(closing)
September 8, 1993		(history & closing)

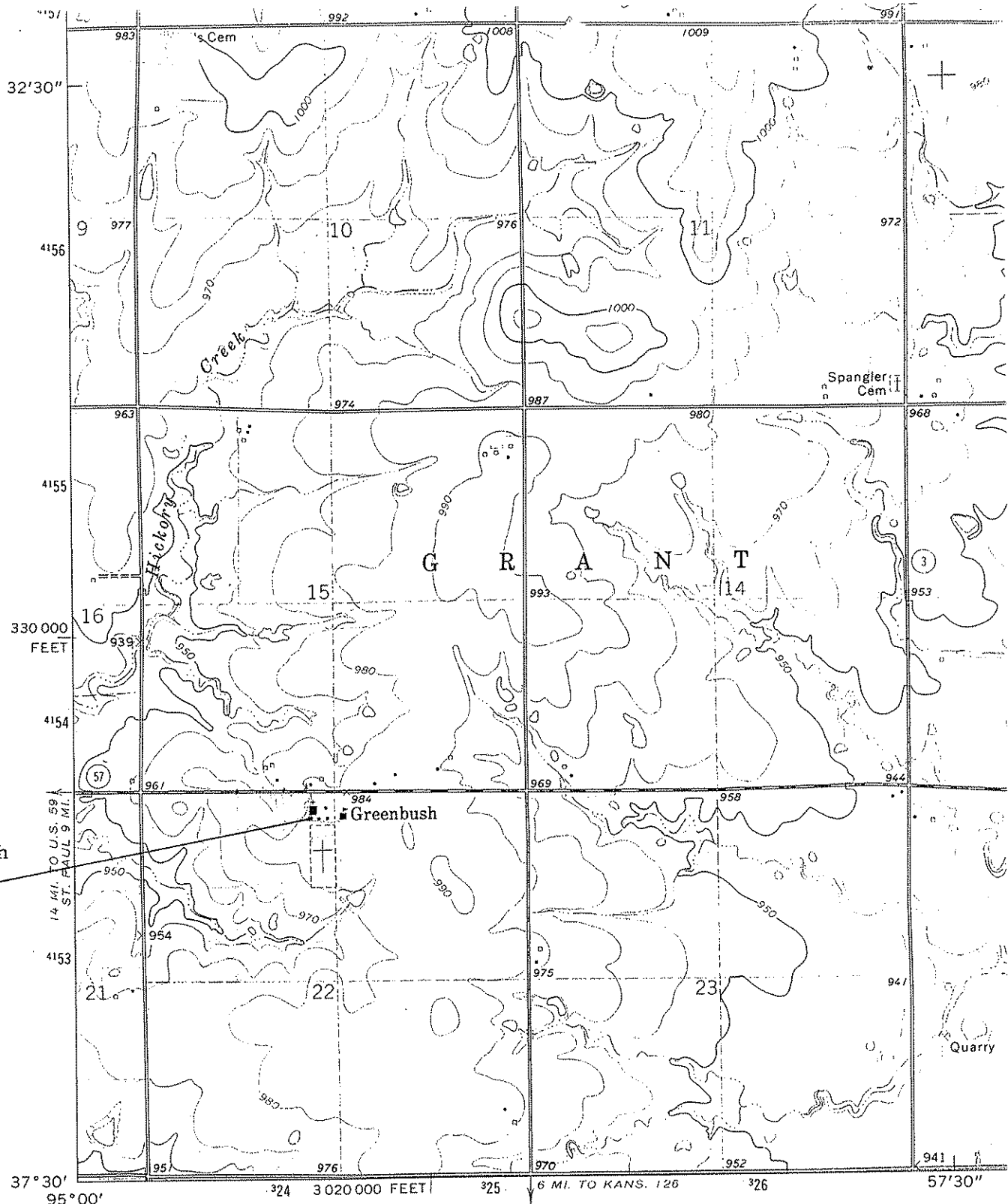
U.S. Census (1881)

Photocopies (aerial)

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Architect, Paul Cavanaugh. Places Architects, Wichita, Kansas
William C. Cuthbertson. Cemeteries in Crawford County
Genealogy Record of: Girard Public Library



Greenbush
Catholic Church
(Greenbush)
Girard, Ks.

Vesper Quad

15 324 198

4153568

(MC CUNE NE)
6958 1 NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Kansas coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

